

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing ~~the likelihood that~~ if a patient diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus but not neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus is suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus which comprises:
 - a) obtaining a fluid sample from the subject;
 - b) contacting the fluid sample with ~~an agent~~ a gamma enolase which forms a complex with an autoantibody to a protein comprising consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21 or 23, under conditions permitting any such autoantibody present in the sample to complex with the agent gamma enolase; and
 - c) detecting the presence of any autoantibody-~~agent~~ gamma enolase complex formed in step (b);wherein the detection of autoantibody-~~agent~~ gamma enolase complex in step (c) indicates that the patient is likely suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid sample comprises sera, plasma, urine, saliva, synovial fluid, cerebro-spinal fluid, or lymph.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~agent~~ gamma enolase comprises ~~a protein comprising~~

consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, or SEQ ID NO:24, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~protein~~ gamma enolase or an immunogenic fragment thereof is labeled with a detectable marker.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the detectable marker is a radioisotope, a chromophore, a biomolecule, a fluorophore, a radiolabeled molecule, a dye, an affinity label, an antibody, biotin, streptavidin, a metabolite, a mass tag, or a dextran.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting in step (c) comprises contacting the autoantibody ~~agent~~ gamma enolase complex with ~~a second~~ an antibody which binds to the autoantibody-~~agent~~ gamma enolase complex and is labeled with a detectable marker.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the an amount of complex formed in step (b) and comparing such amount with a standard, wherein a greater amount of complex formed in step (b) than in the standard indicates that the subject is ~~likely~~ suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ 8, wherein the standard is a fluid sample comprising sera, plasma, urine, saliva, synovial fluid, cerebro-spinal fluid, or lymph from a patient not suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing ~~the likelihood that~~ if a patient diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus but not neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus is suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus which comprises:

- a) providing a solid support to which ~~an agent~~ a gamma enolase, which forms a complex with an autoantibody to a protein comprising consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21 or 23[[,]] under conditions permitting any such autoantibody present in the sample to complex with the ~~agent~~ gamma enolase, is bound;
- b) contacting the solid support from (a) with a fluid sample from the subject;
- c) removing any of the autoantibody which is not bound to the solid support; and
- d) detecting the presence of autoantibody bound to the solid support,

wherein the detection of autoantibody bound to the solid support in step (d) indicates that the patient is ~~likely~~ suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~agent is a protein~~ gamma enolase ~~comprising~~ comprises consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, or an immunogenic fragment thereof and wherein the detecting of the presence of autoantibody bound to the solid support is performed with an antibody labeled with a detectable marker which antibody binds to the autoantibody ~~is labeled~~

~~with a detectable marker.~~

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the fluid sample comprises sera, plasma, urine, saliva, synovial fluid, cerebro-spinal fluid, or lymph.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the detectable marker is a radioisotope, a chromophore, a biomolecule, a fluorophore, a radiolabeled molecule, a dye, an affinity label, an antibody, biotin, streptavidin, a metabolite, a mass tag, or a dextran.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising determining ~~the~~ an amount of complex formed in step (b) and comparing such amount with a standard, wherein a greater amount of complex formed in step (b) than in the standard indicates that the subject is ~~likely~~ suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the standard is a fluid sample comprising sera, plasma, urine, saliva, synovial fluid, cerebro-spinal fluid, or lymph from a patient not suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.
16. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit which comprises a container comprising ~~an agent~~ a gamma enolase which forms a complex with an autoantibody to a protein comprising consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21 or 23, which ~~agent~~ gamma enolase is labeled with a detectable marker.

17. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 16, wherein the ~~agent~~ gamma enolase comprises a ~~protein comprising~~ consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, or SEQ ID NO:24, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.
18. (Canceled).
19. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit which comprises a container comprising a solid support to which ~~an agent~~ a gamma enolase which forms a complex with an autoantibody to a protein comprising consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21 or 23 is bound, ~~which agent is labeled with a detectable marker.~~
20. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 19, wherein the ~~agent~~ gamma enolase comprises a ~~protein comprising~~ consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, or SEQ ID NO:24, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.
21. (Canceled).